

The Voice

Rhonda Johnson, President

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Columbus Education Association

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Special Edition National Teacher Day

Great Teachers Make Great Public Schools

Thank you from the CEA Vice President

Dear Colleagues,

National Teacher Day is celebrated on May 6 this year. It is a day to recognize the many contributions you make to the students and families of the Columbus City Schools.

You make a difference in their lives. Each one of you is a hero. Keep inspiring students to succeed. Know you are right where you are needed.

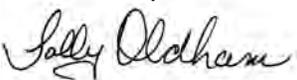
Everyday Columbus teachers work with our students to achieve new learning skills, to comfort those who have suffered a loss and to encourage those who are unsure of their abilities. And, most of you spend your own money to make sure your classrooms are the best they can be.

Teachers are an important asset to the Columbus community. United Way, the United Negro College Fund, I Know I Can, Operation Feed and Reach Out and Read are beneficiaries of your generosity. You help not only our students but their families and our community.

Throughout my career in Columbus City Schools, I have met and worked with talented and dedicated teachers who shared their craft with me. I thank all of them. They taught me so much more than I learned in college.

Today, and throughout National Teacher Appreciation Week, take time to celebrate. You are the most qualified, caring and compassionate teachers in the nation. I am proud of all the members of CEA, and I am honored to be your vice president.

In solidarity,


Sally Oldham



Sally Oldham

A six-point vision for Ohio's schools

When you ask Ohio Governor Ted Strickland who has left an indelible mark on who he is today, he's quick to answer.

"The most important influences in my life have been teachers," he says. "Teachers have incredible power and monumental influence. What's most important is that you need to be respected by the government."

Strickland has begun to speak publicly about his six-point plan to improve Ohio's educational system.

Still unofficial at this point, his plan leaves no student—or teacher—behind. The governor recently spoke exclusively with CEA Governor Phil Hayes about his plan.

"We've got a lot of work to do to meet our obligations to Ohio's schools," said Strickland. "The six principles of my plan do not deal with specific outcomes but instead provide a framework for action. I believe that sound public policy should be built on principles that are good for the state."

The first point, he said, is to "strongly emphasize the word *public*. I believe the court of public opinion regarding vouchers is beginning to change. They're destructive to our students and wasteful of our tax dollars."

Strickland said the state needs an education system "directly linked to our state's growth and prosperity." He said, "The reason for a thriving middle class in Ohio is our commitment to public education and the organized labor movement, both of which need to be reemphasized."

To read the rest of this exclusive interview with Gov. Ted Strickland and to learn more about his plan for education in Ohio, go to the CEA Blog at blog.ceaohio.org.



Ted Strickland

Honor our school nurses

National School Nurse Day was established to foster a better understanding of the role of school nurses in the educational setting. This year, we celebrate the day on May 7. The 2008 theme, "School Nurses in Action: Transforming School Communities," is reflective of the global impact school nurses have on the health and



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To sign the Nation's Largest
Teacher Thank-You Card, go to

<http://www.ceaohio.org/newsPage.aspx?artID=328>

well-being of students.

The multiple roles of school nurses and the many services they provide make them a valuable school and community resource. Schools and communities are encouraged to join with their school nurses in celebrating what they do on a daily basis to keep kids healthy and ready to learn.

CEA is proud of its 103 school nurses, and we salute them everyday for helping to make our students successful.

CCS alumni remember teachers

Ever run into one your former students at the grocery store or a mall? It can be a bit of surprise, and even emotionally overwhelming, to be greeted as one of the prime influences in a person's younger life.

So forget for a moment about the testing programs and reporting requirements, and focus on these stories by Columbus City Schools alumni that bring our mission home.

Some of the teachers who had a special impact on me were Mrs. Rich and Mr. Byrd at Champion and Mrs. Peterson at Huy.

Mrs. Rich was firm but fair, and everyone showed her respect. She was a lady of outstanding deportment and helped me understand I was there to do something special—learn.

Mr. Byrd was a gentleman who conducted himself with great dignity. He had high expectations for us and always advised us to *take note* of particularly meaningful points. I always did.

Mrs. Peterson was someone who was very warm and welcoming. This was especially important to me because this was my first year in the big city. She made me feel special, and I wanted to learn more in her class because of how she reached out to us.

These teachers and many more helped to encourage me to develop a deep appreciation for learning. I owe a great deal to my school teachers.

Gary L. Baker
Columbus Board of Education



Gary Baker

Ms. Judy Ashmore inspired me to run for my very first elected office: Student Council Vice President of the eighth grade at Crestview MS. It was under her advisement that I decided to run for vice president, as opposed to president, because as she so delicately put it, I was going to get whipped.

Her guidance exposed me to the political process and the effect that one can have in elected office. She helped me to see the great potential in civic leadership and how to truly make a difference in the lives of those around me. I was privileged to have her as my teacher in those formative years because she inspired me to seek my future positions as a public servant.

Kevin Boyce
President Pro-Tempore, Columbus City Council



Kevin Boyce

To this day, I talk with regularity about what was taught to me by my junior high school guidance counselor Oscar Gill—desire, dedication and determination. I have used these three important principles to help guide my life.

Archie Griffin
President, OSU Alumni Association



Archie Griffin

Shirley Bendau was my second grade teacher at Douglas Alternative School. I remember this strikingly beautiful teacher who always started the day with a smile. No matter what the lesson, she taught it with great energy and excitement even if the subject matter was something less than appealing. Her impact was so strong on me because the learning environment in her classroom was always a positive one.

Now that I am older and wiser, I recognize how important that was to prepare us for learning. In the news we talk about



Anietra Hamper

the importance of kids eating breakfast in the morning to prepare them for the day and get their brains ready to learn. I feel the same is true for *prepping* the learning environment itself and Mrs. Bendau had it mastered. I think of Mrs. Bendau often and there's something to be said about a teacher whose compassion and passion for education can make an impression that carries into adulthood.

Mrs. Bendau is such a wonderful educator. Even in her retirement she can't stay out of the classroom. I'm so proud of her and I am blessed knowing her.

Anietra Hamper
Anchor, WCMH-TV

I have many wonderful memories of teachers in Columbus Schools. One of my favorite memories involved my fourth grade teacher at Garfield School, Mrs. Anna Bishop. Music was always in the air in our classroom. *America the Beautiful*, *The Negro National Anthem* and *Fifty Nifty United States* were among my favorites! I still remember all of the verses of those songs today—46 years later.

Dr. Gene Harris
Superintendent, Columbus City Schools



Gene Harris

Out of the many teachers I had during my school years, one of my favorites was Barbara Jones, who taught fifth grade at Indian Springs ES. She was patient and honest and cared deeply about each of her students.

Under her guidance, I learned about much more than simply math, science and social studies—I learned important lessons about life. Ms. Jones taught her students the value of working hard to achieve our goals and that we could accomplish anything if we set our minds to it. She encouraged us to ask questions and make up our own minds on issues.

I have carried those lessons through high school, college, law school and beyond, and I am often struck by how true they hold through the years. I am extremely grateful to Ms. Jones for everything she taught me, and I thank her and all of the other hardworking teachers in our community for inspiring our children to do great things.

Rep. Jim Hughes
Ohio House of Representatives



Jim Hughes

One of my favorite teachers as a Columbus City Schools student was Marisa Craig, my fifth grade math teacher. I was blessed to have Mrs. Craig at Linden Park I.G.E. Alternative where she continually challenged me with advanced work at my own individual pace. She must have worked her tail off in order to keep me engaged!!! I believe the foundation that Mrs. Craig laid in fifth grade led to my later successes in math. Thank you, Marisa!

Greg Mild, Curriculum and Staff Development
Columbus City Schools, Northgate Center



Greg Mild

My sixth grade teacher changed my life. Albert Leon Tapo was my teacher at Kent Elementary School on the city's southeast side. He was the first male teacher I had ever had, and I was scared to death of him.

But Mr. Tapo saw something in me. He drove me home from school one day and told my mother that she had to start thinking about college for me. I hadn't dared to dream of going to college. We didn't have a lot of money, so I figured that, after graduating from high school, I would get a good job at the phone company and marry a man who had a good job at the post office.

Mr. Tapo gave me a mission...and a dream. And, because he saw something in me, I did go to college...and for the last 25-plus years, I've had a wonderful career in television.

All because my sixth grade teacher at Kent Elementary School drove me home from school one day.

Angela Pace
Director of Community Affairs, WBNS 10TV



Angela Pace

"Teachers teach because they care. Teaching young people is what they do best. It requires long hours, patience, and care.

Horace Mann